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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DISTRIBUTING AND PROCESSING DISCOUNT COUPONS			
(57) Abstract			
<p>A system for dispensing and redeeming electronic discount coupons in a store. A card-dispensing kiosk collects information from a customer and subsequently issues a "smart card" for storing electronic coupons. Upon completion of shopping, the customer redeems the electronic coupons at the checkout area, by inserting the card into the checkout station. During checkout, when UPC product data corresponds to coupons stored on the card, the customer is credited with the value of the corresponding coupon.</p>			
<pre> graph TD A[RECEIVE CUSTOMER DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION] --> B[RECEIVE CUSTOMER COUPON SELECTION] B --> C[STORE CUSTOMER INFORMATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH CARD IDENTIFIER] C --> D[WRITE COUPONS ONTO CARD FROM STORAGE BIN] D --> E[EJECT CARD FROM STORAGE BIN] E --> F[SELECT PRODUCTS] F --> G[REDEEM COUPONS BY READING CARD RAM] G --> H[INSERT CARD IN COUPON DISPENSER TO WRITE ADDITIONAL COUPONS INTO CARD RAM] H --> I[REDEEM COUPONS BY READING CARD RAM] I --> J[SELECT PRODUCTS] J --> G </pre> <p>The flowchart illustrates the process for distributing and processing discount coupons. It begins with 'RECEIVE CUSTOMER DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION', followed by 'RECEIVE CUSTOMER COUPON SELECTION', 'STORE CUSTOMER INFORMATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH CARD IDENTIFIER', 'WRITE COUPONS ONTO CARD FROM STORAGE BIN', and 'EJECT CARD FROM STORAGE BIN'. This sequence is followed by 'SELECT PRODUCTS', 'REDEEM COUPONS BY READING CARD RAM', 'INSERT CARD IN COUPON DISPENSER TO WRITE ADDITIONAL COUPONS INTO CARD RAM', and 'REDEEM COUPONS BY READING CARD RAM' again. A feedback loop returns to 'SELECT PRODUCTS' after the second 'REDEEM COUPONS' step.</p>			